



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

COTTON OUTLOOK CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

NASHVILLE, October 10, 2008 – Now that the State's cotton harvest has begun, forecasted yields are better than earlier expected. Cotton yield prospects improved for the third consecutive month, increasing 34 pounds per acre from September. Forecasted yields for burley and dark air-cured tobacco also rose from the previous month, while soybeans remained unchanged. Both corn and hay yields dropped from earlier projections. September's weather was mostly dry, except for the remnants of Hurricane Ike, which passed over the western and middle portions of the State mid-month, bringing precipitation and high winds. Wind damage was isolated, however, and the precipitation was greatly needed. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 111 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2007; **Cotton**, 840 pounds per acre, up 275 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, up 11 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,950 pounds per acre, up 350 pounds from last year; and **Other Hay**, except alfalfa, 2.0 tons per acre, up 0.6 tons from 2007.

COTTON PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 490,000 bales, down only 18 percent from last year's production of 600,000 bales despite a 45 percent drop in acreage. Cotton yields are expected to average 840 pounds per acre, up 275 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from 2007. Despite dry conditions, the cotton crop was able to put on a heavy boll set. Slightly over four-fifths of the acreage was defoliated as of the week ending October 5. With excellent weather for harvest, combining was progressing on schedule. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

SOYBEANS PRODUCTION SHOWS LARGEST JUMP ON RECORD

Soybean production is forecast at 43.8 billion bushels, up 24.6 million from last year's drought level and, if realized, the largest one year increase since records began in 1924. Soybean yields are forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 11 bushels above 2007. The State's planted acreage was updated and is now estimated at 1.50 million acres. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.46 million acres, up 450,000 from a year ago and, if realized, the largest one year acreage increase on record. Despite mostly dry conditions, soybeans maintained their yield potential during the month of September. As of the week ending October 5, eighty percent of the crop was dropping leaves and harvest was only slightly behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

CORN SHOWS DECLINE

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 69.9 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 111 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above 2007 but 4 bushels below the September 1 forecast. The State's planted acreage was updated and is now estimated at 690,000 acres, down 180,000 from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 630,000 acres for grain, 155,000 less than last year. As of the week ending October 5, the entire crop was mature with over 80 percent harvested. Dry weather during the past month allowed for good harvest progress. Corn yields were highly variable across the State depending on when rain was received, especially during the crucial pollination phase. **Sorghum** planted was also updated and is now estimated at 26,000 acres, up 4,000 from 2007. Sorghum for grain harvest is estimated at 23,000 acres, also up 4,000 acres from last year.

(over)

BURLEY PRODUCTION RISES FIRST TIME IN LAST DECADE

As of October 1, burley production is forecast at 25.4 million pounds, 22 percent above a year ago and, if realized, the first increase since 1999. Yield is forecast to average 1,950 pounds per acre, up 350 pounds from 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. Mostly dry weather during September did not seem to affect yields and provided the opportunity for timely harvest. Harvest of the dark-types was nearly wrapped-up by October 1, while burley lagged slightly behind the normal pace. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,800 pounds per acre, both well above 2007.

HAY PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY FROM 2007

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 3.60 million tons, 51 percent above the drought impacted crop of 2007. Yields are expected to average 2.0 tons per acre, up 0.6 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.8 million acres, up 100,000 acres from a year earlier. September weather was mostly dry, leaving many pastures and hay fields depleted and some livestock producers having to provide supplemental feed. As of the week ending October 5, hay fields were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition, while pastures were rated in mostly poor-to-fair condition.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2008, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	785	630	106	111	83,210	69,930
Cotton ¹	lb.	510	280	565	840	600	490
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,700	1,800	1.40	2.00	2,380	3,600
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	0 ²	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,010	1,460	19	30	19,190	43,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.98	21.80	1,934	2,425	38,636	52,870
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	7.2	2,600	3,200	16,120	23,040
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,600	1,950	20,800	25,350
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.78	1.60	2,200	2,800	1,716	4,480
Winter Wheat	bu.	260	550	41.0	65.0	10,660	35,750
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,113,900	9,242,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,542	79,197	151.1	154.0	13,073,893	12,199,908
Cotton ¹	lb.	10,489	7,755	879	849	19,207	13,711
Hay, All	ton	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.49	150,304	150,500
Peaches	ton	---	---	8.41	---	1,129	1,094
Soybeans	bu.	64,141	75,479	41.7	39.5	2,675,822	2,983,023
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.0	356.04	2,191	2,261	779,899	804,927
Dark fire-cured	lb.	14.60	18.40	2,855	3,342	41,688	61,490
Burley	lb.	106.30	95.95	1,951	2,059	207,387	197,600
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.98	8.30	2,706	2,961	13,476	24,580
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,952	39,614	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. ²No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

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